Chapter
11

JUN MOCHIZUKI

THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS

I'LL DO AS I PLEASE ...
...USE METHODS I CHOOSE...
...AND, NO MATTER WHAT YOU PEOPLE WANT...
...I WILL SAVE YOU, WITHOUT FAIL.

JUN MOCHIZUKI

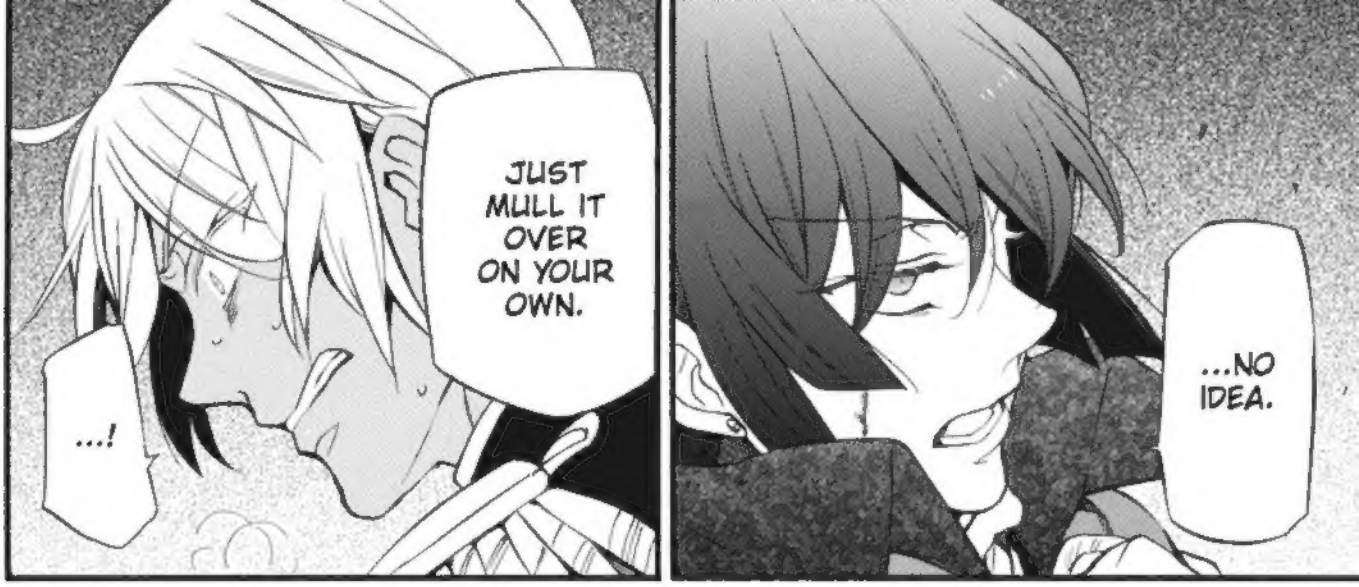
THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS

Mémoire 11

AFTER THE REVEL...

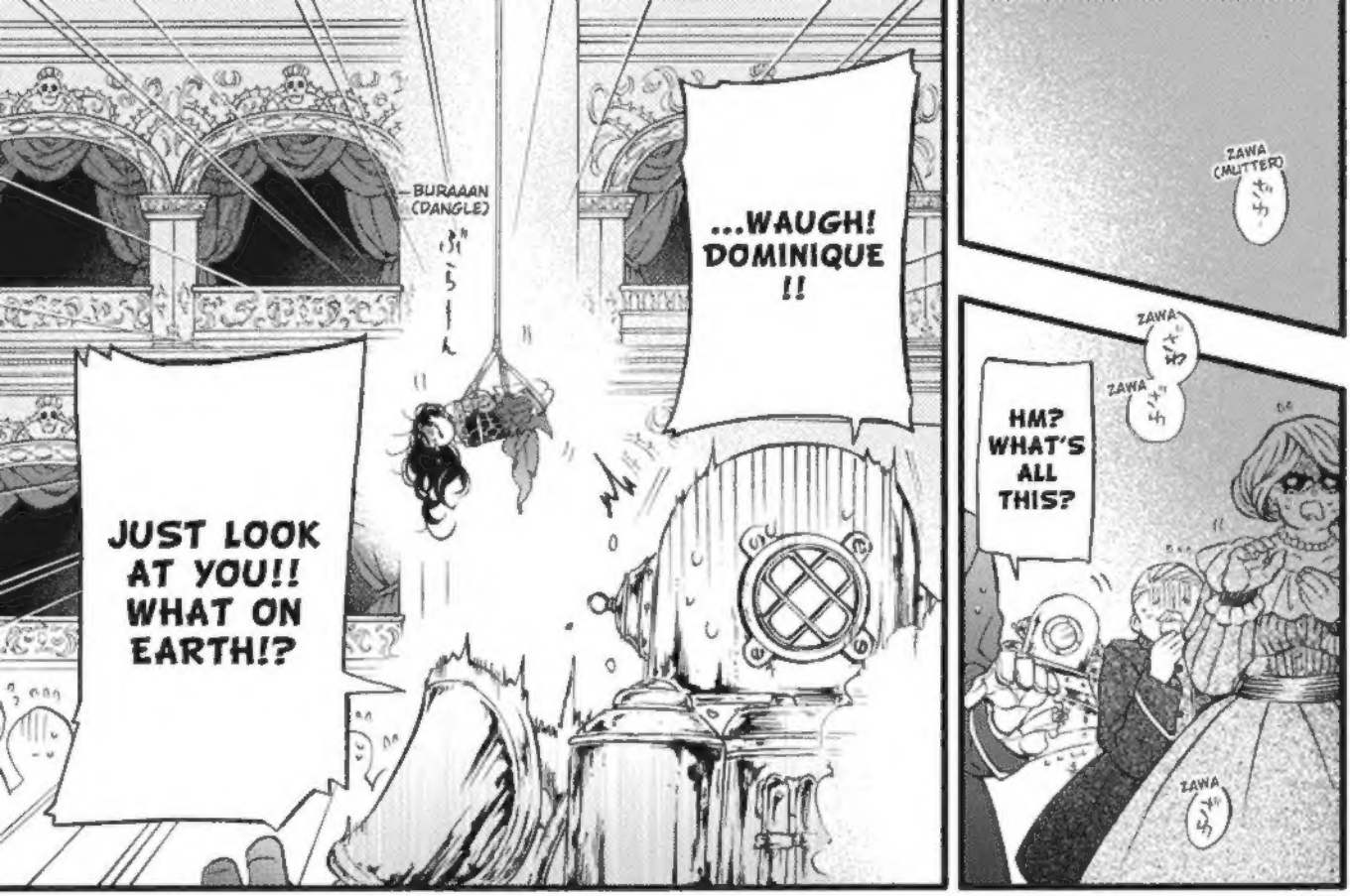
...LET'S REMOVE OUR MASKS AND TALK.

ALL TOO EASILY,
MEMORIES OF THE BEGINNING SUMMON
MEMORIES OF THE END.


JUST MULL IT OVER ON YOUR OWN.
...!
...NO IDEA.

FOUNDDDDD...
...YOUUUUUU♡

!?


ZAWA (MUTTER)
ZAWA
ZAWA
HM? WHAT'S ALL THIS?
ZAWA
—BURAAAN (DANGLE)
...WAUGH! DOMINIQUE !!
JUST LOOK AT YOU!! WHAT ON EARTH!?

!! MA... MARQUIS MACHINA!!
NEVER MIND ME, JUST... HURRY!!
!?

HURRY AND STOP MY SISTER!! PLEASE!!

WHA ...!?
PISHI (KRIK)
PISHI
AAAAH ...
THE STENCH, THE STENCH, THE STENCH !!
BIKI (CRACK)
BIKI
IT STINKS LIKE MEN.
STINKS LIKE HUMANS.
THIS COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE WORSE !!

EVEN WITH HER VISION OBSTRUCTED BY THAT MASK...
...SHE'S ABLE TO REWRITE "FORMULAS" TO THIS EXTENT!?
IMPRESSIVE.

THOSE ARE INCREDIBLE EYES YOU'VE GOT...
..."BEASTIA" VERONICA DE SADE!

MINE IS NOT A NAME...
... FOR MERE HUMANS TO USE CASUALLY.

DO (WALUD)
DO

BIKI
BIKI
GAKIN
GLARE
!

DEAR LITTLE DOMI TRIED TO STOP ME...
...SO I'LL SHATTER YOU TO PIECES RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER!

THIS ISN'T GOOD.
OOPS.

FIRST, I'LL FREEZE YOU.
AND THEN... LET'S SEE.

VANITAS !!
!?
IT WAS THAT LAST ATTACK. MY BODY WON'T...!
... DAMN IT.
FU FU FU!
BIKI
BIKI
KYA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

KARAN (CLATTER)
PAN (BANG)
TOKN (TAP)
THAT'S ENOUGH, VERONICA.

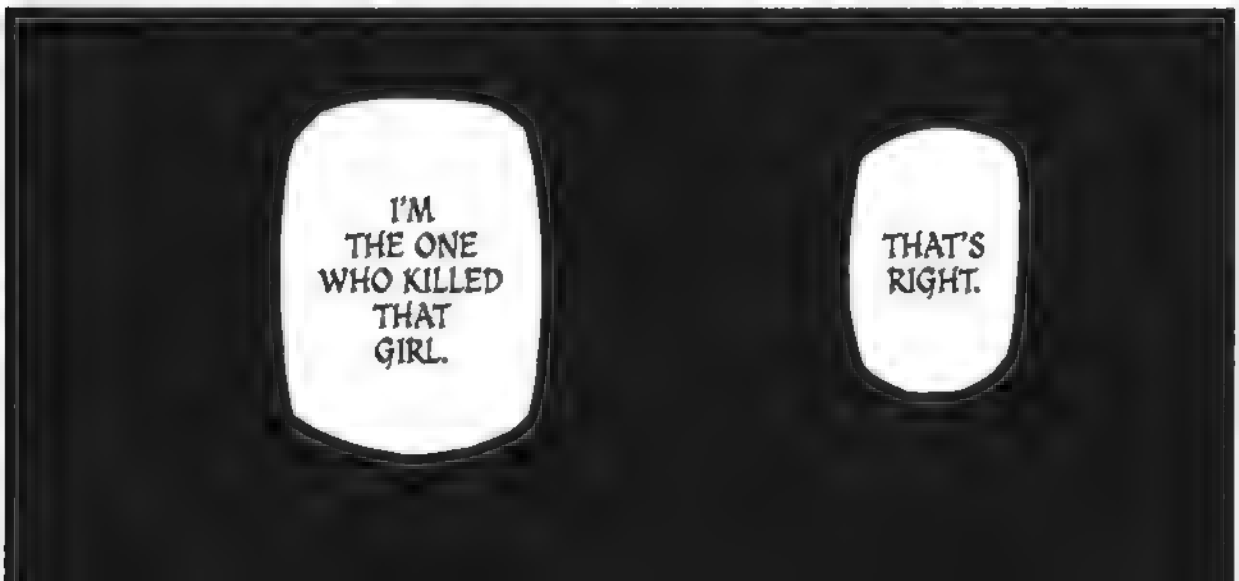
HARA (FLUTTER)
LORD RUTHVEN ...

ONE GRANTED THE NAME OF BEASTIA, "QUEEN'S FANG," SHOULD NOT USE HER POWER IN SUCH AN UNBECOMING MANNER.
...!
...?
GAN (THROB)
GAN
RUTHVEN...??
HFF
RUTHVEN...
...
IT TOOK TIME TO PROCURE A SUBSTITUTE CARRIAGE.
YES. MY CARRIAGE WAS ATTACKED BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS.
...YOU'VE ARRIVED VERY LATE.

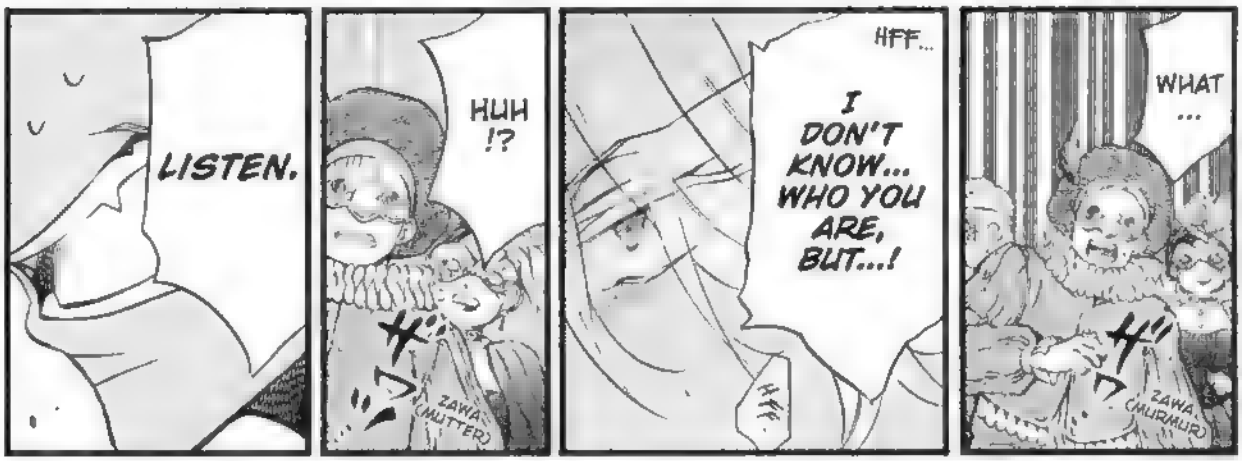
EXPLAIN THIS SITUATION.
...NOW.
THERE'S NO MISTAKE. WE SAW THE MARK ENGRAVED ON HIS ARM!
MILORD... LORD RUTHVEN!
WHAT?
THAT HUMAN IS KIN TO THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON!
KATSU (TAK)
THAT'S NOT...
HE USED THE POWER OF THE BOOK OF VANITAS TO SPREAD THE CURSE OF THE BLUE MOON!!
SEVERAL CURSE-BEARERS APPEARED WITH THAT HUMAN.

YOU HEARD HIM. IS IT TRUE?

...WAS IT YOU WHO RETURNED THOSE INDIVIDUALS TO ASHES?


I'M THE ONE WHO KILLED THAT GIRL.
THAT'S RIGHT.

STOP IT... DON'T... TOUCH HIM!!


LISTEN.
HUH !?
ZAWA (MUTTER)
HFF...
I DON'T KNOW... WHO YOU ARE, BUT...!
HFF.
WHAT ...
ZAWA (MURMUR)

AND YOU PEOPLE BARGED IN AND INTERRUPTED! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?
I WAS— TALKING TO HIM!

DON'T JUST HIJACK THE SITUATION!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
TRYING TO SHOVE THE BLAME ONTO HIM BECAUSE IT'S CONVENIENT IS JUST—
...
HUH?
BUT... THAT'S ...

HA HA HA HA!
I DID...
...THE EXACT SAME THING...
...
HEH!
I'D FLATTERED MYSELF THAT I WAS FAIRLY WELL-KNOWN, YOU SEE.
HA-HA-HA ...
AH, MY APOLOGIES!
BIKU
AS YOU SAY, I WAS THE ONE WHOSE MANNERS WERE LACKING.
YOUR PARDON, BOY.
IT SEEMS THAT WAS CONCEITED OF ME.
HEH HEH

I AM RUTHVEN.
I SERVE HER MAJESTY AS A MEMBER OF THE SENATE.

UNCLE!!

THE... SENATE ...

FURA (TOTTER)
LUCA ...?
HUH?
... UNCLE?

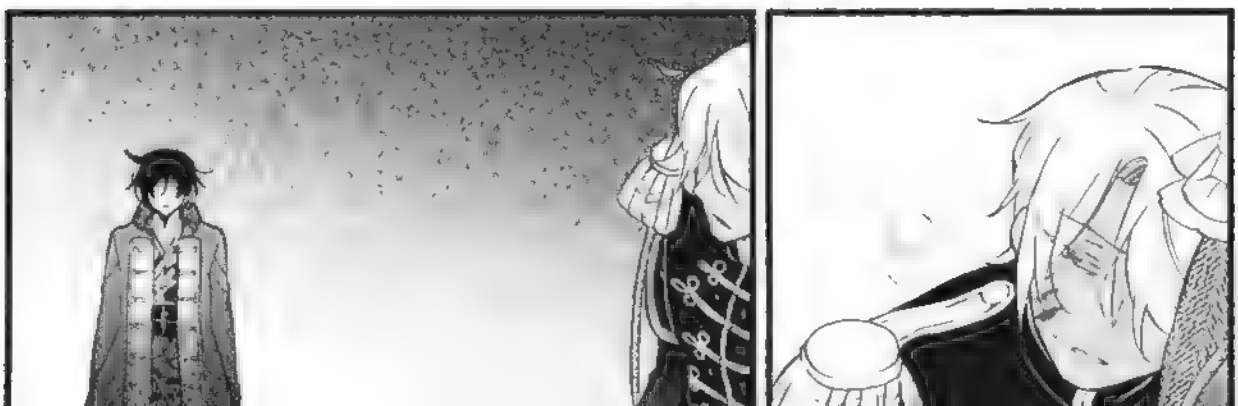
YOU AS WELL, UNCLE! I WAS AFRAID SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED.
LUCIUS.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.

WHOOPS
NOÉ!!
DOSA (WHUMP)
GURA (STAGGER)
NOÉ... WHAT IS GOING ON HERE.....?
DON'T ...
SU (SHUF)
HE-
HE-
I'M ONLY MELTING THE ICE.
HAVE NO FEAR.

...
FLAMES
...
BLACK
...
HM.
UNCLE... WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH THEM?
I'LL TAKE THESE TWO UNDER MY PROTECTION.

...UNDERSTAND THAT IT WILL BE VIEWED AS AN ATTACK ON MY PERSON.
ZAWA (MUTTER)
!?
AS I'M SURE YOU'RE ALL AWARE...
...SHOULD ANYONE ATTEMPT TO HARM MY "GUESTS"...

(WHEW)
ZOKU (SHUDDER)

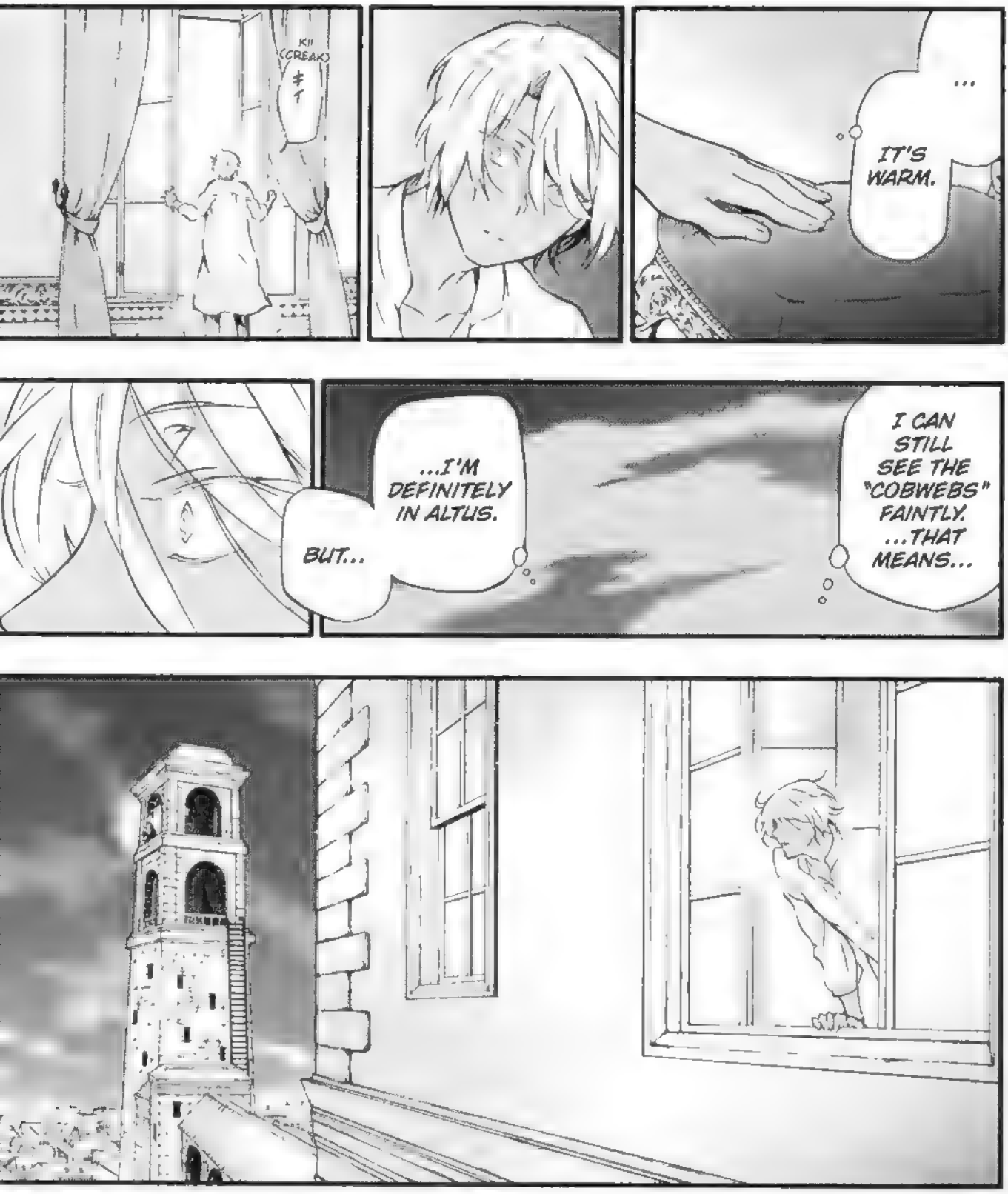


VANITAS.
I...
...HAVE TO...
...APOLO-GIZE...
...TO YOU...
APOLOGIZE?

...
TEA... CHER ...?
WHAT FOR, HM?
...
TEACHER... I TRIED TO FORCE MY IDEALS... MY HOPES, ONTO HIM.
HE NEVER... BROKE HIS WORD, BUT I...
...I DEVELOPED EXPECTATIONS, ALL ON MY OWN...
...AND, SELFISHLY, I FELT AS IF I'D BEEN BETRAYED.

I'M NOT EXPERI-ENCED ENOUGH ...
... TEACHER.
... WELL?
SINCE HE WASN'T WHAT YOU WERE EXPECTING, WOULD YOU RATHER NOT BE AROUND HIM ANYMORE?
...
MON CHATON. WHEN I TOLD YOU TO DISCERN THE TRUE CHARACTER OF THE BOOK OF VANITAS...
...I DIDN'T MEAN FOR YOU TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE BOOK WAS A THREAT TO VAMPIRES OR NOT.
HUH ...?
ENGAGE WITH THE TALE OF THE PEOPLE SURROUNDING THE BOOK OF VANITAS.

ONCE YOU'VE DONE THAT, HOW WILL YOU DEFINE *THE BOOK OF VANITAS* FOR YOURSELF?
THAT ...
...IS WHAT I WANT TO KNOW.


KI!
(CREAK)
#1
...
IT'S WARM.
I CAN STILL SEE THE "COBWEBS" FAINTLY. ...THAT MEANS...
...I'M DEFINITELY IN ALTUS.
BUT...

KATSU (TAK)
VANITAS.

YOU REALLY DO LIKE HIGH PLACES, DON'T YOU.
...

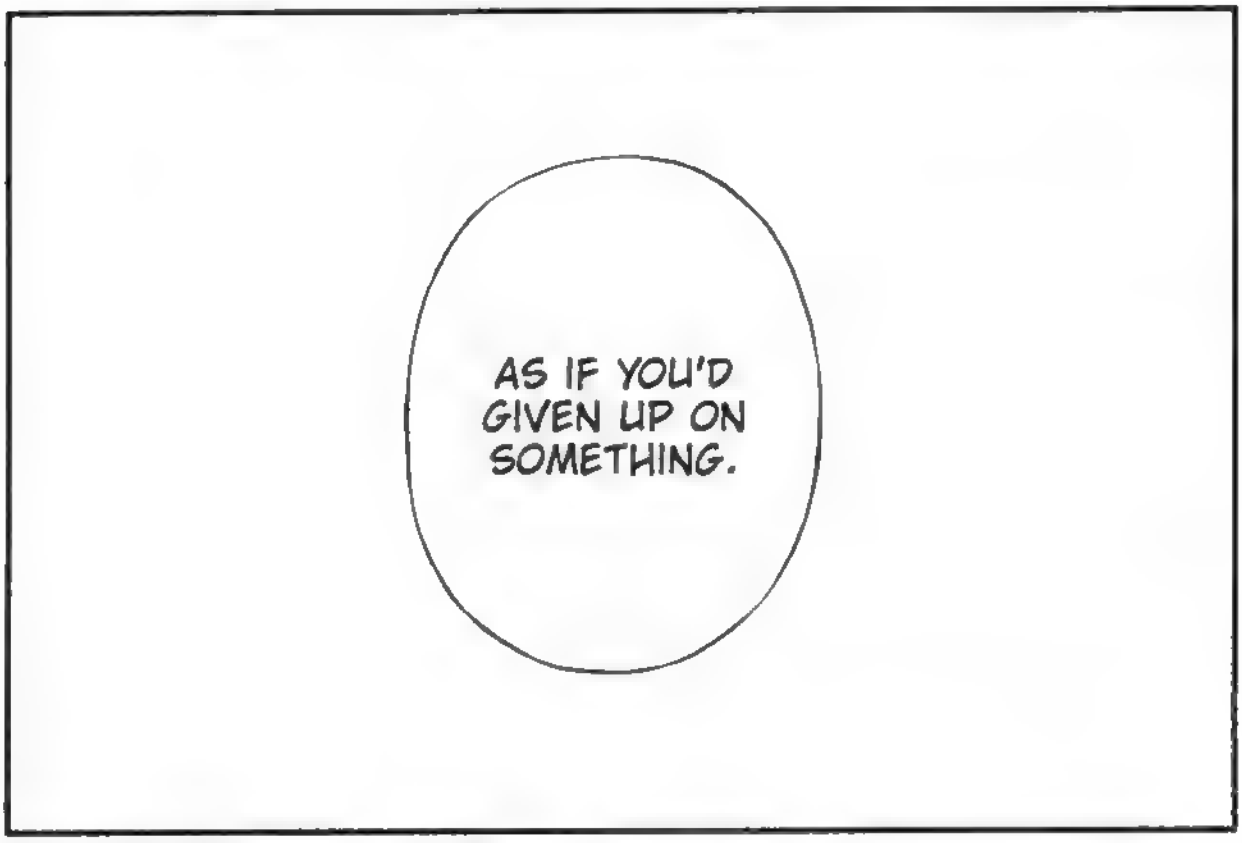
...CAN I ASK WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?
NOTHING INTERESTING.
LORD RUTHVEN TOOK CHARGE AND DISPERSED THE CROWD.

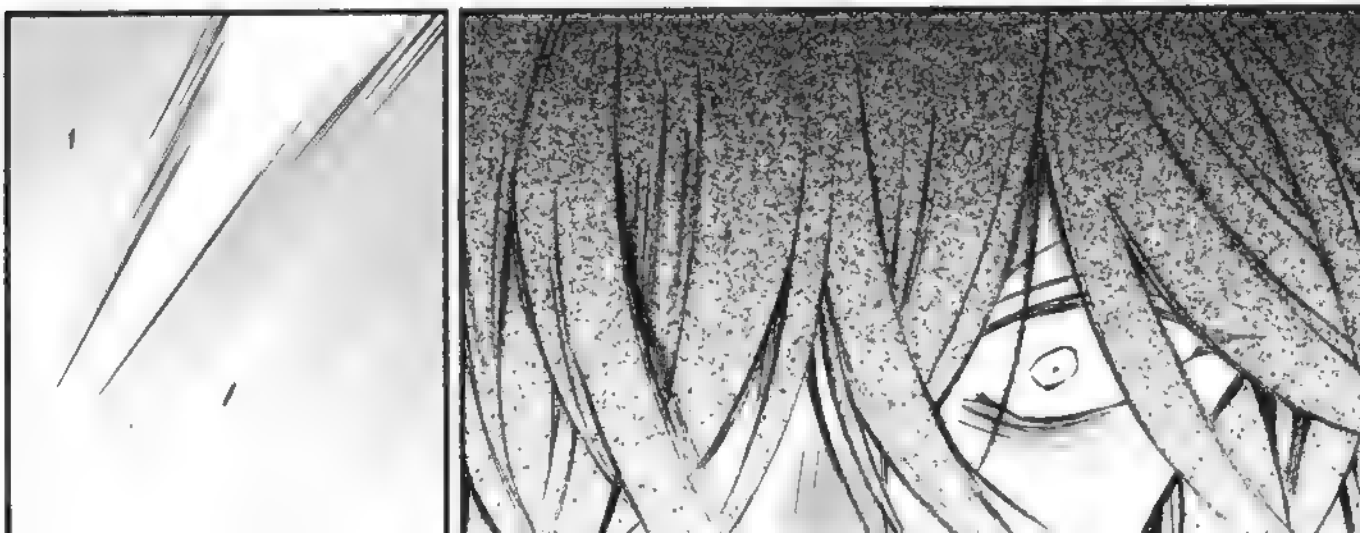
THE OFFICIAL STORY IS THAT WE'RE RUTHVEN'S GUESTS.
THEN... THE ROOM I WAS IN... THAT WAS HIM AS WELL?
YEAH.
YOU'RE ANGRY ABOUT SOMETHING.
EITHER THAT, OR YOU'RE SULKING.
HUH ...?
AS IF.
...HEY.
WHAT IS IT?
?
WHAT IS WHAT?
NO.
...YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME, DON'T YOU?

WELL, I DO.
YOU SAID...
...THAT WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO IS REVENGE. REMEMBER?
...YES.
I... I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU MEANT BY IT—
THAT WAS A LIE.

SO YOU FELL FOR IT, DID YOU?
IDIOT.
...A LIE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I DIDN'T THINK THE VAMPIRES WOULD LISTEN TO ME UNLESS I SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE LYING.
WHAT YOU SAID THEN WAS A LIE?
NO, THAT'S A LIE.

I THOUGHT THAT WAS WHY...
...YOU LOOKED LIKE THAT.
WHEN I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID, IT MADE SENSE TO ME.
THAT... WILL BE MY REVENGE ON VANITAS!!!
WHETHER YOU WANT ME TO OR NOT, I WILL SAVE YOU, WITHOUT FAIL.


AS IF YOU'D GIVEN UP ON SOMETHING.



CATCH (GRAB)
GU (STRAIN)
GU
—DO NOT...
...TRY TO SIZE ME UP WITH RIDICULOUS ASSUMPTIONS!

ENOUGH. I'M TIRED OF THIS.
I CAN'T DEAL WITH A SIMPLETON LIKE YOU ANYMORE.
FROM NOW ON, I'LL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

WHY DO I HAVE TO LISTEN TO ANYTHING YOU SAY?
HUH?
SO YOU DO THE SAME AND STAY AWAY FROM—
I...
... DON'T LIKE YOU!
I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA HERE.
THAT MEANS I DON'T PLAN TO OBEY YOUR ORDERS...
...AND I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF HELPING YOU WITH ANYTHING.
...I SAID...
...YOU DON'T NEED TO—!

GOOON
GOOON (BOOOONG)
BIKU (FLINCH)
GOOON
GOOON
TCH!
I THOUGHT HE WAS ANGRY...
...AND NOW ALL OF A SUDDEN HE'S CRANKY.

GOOON (BOOOONG)
...
(STARE)
...
THIS IS FUN.

PRECISELY BECAUSE THAT'S SO...

THIS THING YOU'RE ATTEMPTING... I WANT TO SEE IT THROUGH TO THE END!
...I WANT TO UNDERSTAND.
SO...
EVEN IF YOU PUSH ME AWAY...

"AND, NO MATTER WHAT YOU WANT..."

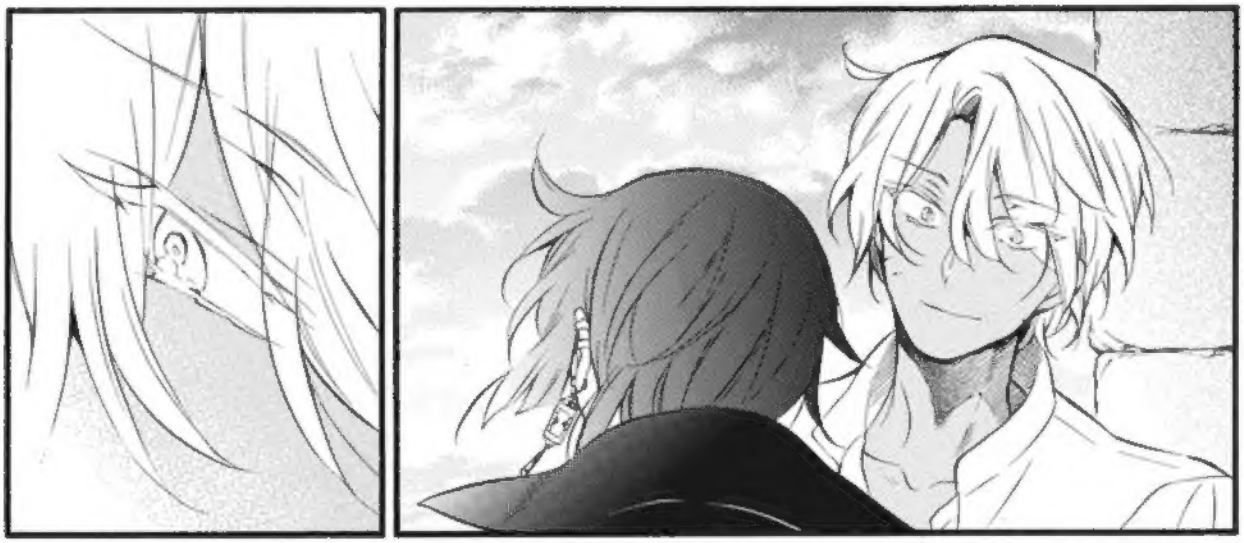
"...I'LL DO AS I PLEASE."

...VANITAS.

...I'VE DECIDED I'M STAYING WITH YOU...

KEH HEH HEH
KEH
HEH!

...
DO AS YOU LIKE.



EVEN NOW, I VIVIDLY REMEMBER ...
...THE COLOR OF THE RISING SUN I SAW THEN.
AND...

THE REGRETS OF THAT DAY...

...WHEN I DIDN'T GRAB YOUR HAND—

THE THINGS THAT SLIPPED THROUGH MY FINGERS.

THE PEOPLE I COULDN'T PROTECT.

...ALL TOO EASILY, MEMORIES OF THE BEGINNING ...

...SUMMON MEMORIES OF THE END.

OH.

THAT'S RIGHT.

Mémoire 11

Point of Departure

DEUX OMBRES

TO BE CONTINUED...

The Case Study of Vanitas
Chapter 11

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